

Message Text

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15

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SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE - SEPTEMBER 12

1. TV NEWS TUESDAY EVENING REPORTED FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA
EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IN DIET THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE PROBABLY
WON'T BE RESOLVED BEFORE UNGA DEBATE OF KOREAN ISSUE, WITH IMPLICIT
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.

2. WEDNESDAY MORNING MACHINICHI, SANKEI AND YOMIURI REPORTED
KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE AS TOP LEAD STORIES, ABOVE REPORTS ON OPENING
OF GATT CONFERENCE IN TOKYO TODAY. ESSENTIAL POINTS OF EMBASSY
TRANSLATION OF YOMIURI LEAD STORY REPORTING GOJ EFFORTS TO BREAK
DEADLOCK WITH ROK FOLLOW.

3. YOMIURI FRONTPAGE STORY HEADLINE: QTE GOJ TO SEND SPECIAL
EVNOY TO BREAK DEADLOCK ON KIM INCIDENT; TALKS ALSO WITH PRESIDENT
PARK; SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO UNGA SESSION; GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE;
ORDERS GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TOO, TO PROMOTE SETTLE-
MENT. UNQTE

4. YOMIURI FRONT PAGE LEAD STORY FOLLOWS: QTE GOJ SOURCE
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CLARIFIED TUESDAY EVENING THAT GOJ DECIDED TO DISPATCH SPECIAL

ENVOY TO SEOUL TO BREAK THE DEADLOCKED SITUATION OF THE KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT, AND WOULD SELECT ENVOY WITHIN DAY OR TWO. GOJ INTENDS TO APPOINT AN EX-AMBASSADOR WHO IS WELL INFORMED ON SITUATION IN ROK. FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT EVENING ALSO ORDERED AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TO MEET ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG PIL WITHIN DAY OR TWO AND CALL FOR EFFORTS FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT OF INCIDENT. GOJ BELIEVES THERE STILL WIDE GULF BETWEEN JAPANESE AND ROK VIEWS ON CASE. THEREFORE, GOJ INTENDS TO SEND SPECIAL ENVOY TO SEEK TALKS WITH ROKG LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT PARK TO CONVEY TO THEM VIEWS OF PRIMIN TANAKA AND FONMIN OHIRA, AND TO URGE ROK TO RESOLVE INCIDENT SOONEST. GON WILL WATCH FOR ROK RESPONSE BEFORE DECIDING OWN POSITION BEFORE SEPT 23 WHEN OHIRA LEAVES TO ATTEND UNGA.

5. GOJ WORRIED THAT IF KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT REMAINS UNSETTLED, IT WILL NOT ONLY HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA, BUT WILL ALSO POSE OBSTACLE TO FUTURE JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS. RE KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA, FACTIONS SUPPORTING NORTH KOREA MOVED ON 10TH TO SUBMIT DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR QTE WITHDRAWAL OF UN FORCES UNQTE INTER ALIA. FLUSTERED AT THIS, JAPAN AND US THAT NIGHT SUBMITTED TO UN HEADQUARTERS A JOINT RESOLUTION DRAFT INCLUDING QTE APPROVAL OF UNCURK UNQTE IN UN COUNTER-POLICIES, WITH NEW YORK AS STAGE, FACTIONS SUPPORTING ROK ARE RATHER BEING PUSHED BY THOSE SUPPORTING NORTH KOREA.

6. THEREFORE, GOJ JUDGED THAT NEED TO SETTLE KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT, BEFORE OHIRA DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, HAS GROWN STRONGER AND ACCORDINGLY DECIDED ON URGENT DISPATCH OF SPECIAL ENVOY.

7. GOJ LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIMIN AND FONMIN IN ANSWERS IN DIET UP TO 10TH, SAID IT STILL PREMATURE TO SEND SPECIAL ENVOY TO ROK AND TOOK PRUDENT ATTITUDE OF WATCHING FOR ROKG RESPONSE. ABOVE ALL, IN ANSWERS TO EMERGENCY INTERPELLATIONS BY OPPOSITION IN LOWER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION SEVENTH, AND UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION TENTH, PRIMIN AND FONMIN REPEATED STATEMENTS SHOWING CONSIDERATION FOR ROKG INTENTIONS, SAYING QTE WE STILL CANNOT CONCLUDE THAT JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY HAS BEEN INFRINGED UNQTE DESPITE CLARIFI-
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CATION OF FACT THAT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON WAS INVOLVED IN CASE.

8. PRIMIN AND GOJ LEADERS BASIC VIEW IS THAT JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE DRIVEN INTO CRISIS OVER KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT, AND ARE NOT THINKING OF SUSPENDING ECONOMIC AID FOR PRESENT. PRIMIN TANAKA, EXPECTING THAT GOJ BASIC VIEW IS BEING CONVEYED CORRECTLY TO ROK, CENTERING ON PRESIDENT PARK,

HAS BEEN WATCHING FOR ROK REACTIONS, WHILE GIVING PRUDENT ANSWERS IN DIET. HOWEVER, NO REACTION HAS BEEN SHOWN BY ROKG AS OF ELEVENTH, AND DATE FOR MEETING WITH PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL SOUGHT BY AMBASSADOR USHIROKU STILL UNDECIDED.

9. PRIMIN, FONMIN AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO CONSULTED AMONG SELVES, AND MOFA ALSO CHECKED INTO SITUATION EVENING OF ELEVENTH. RESULT WAS GOJ DECIDED TO URGE ROKG TO SEEK EARLY SETTLEMENT BY SENDING SPECIAL ENVOY, OR BY TAKING OTHER STEPS. GOJ SAYS SPECIAL ENVOY SHALL BE UNOFFICIAL, AND NOT HAVE OFFICIAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY. BUT PRIMIN EXPECTS SPECIAL ENVOY TO MEET PRESIDENT PARK DIRECTLY, AND FRANKLY CONVEY JAPAN'S INTENTIONS TO REQUEST EARLY SETTLEMENT OF KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT. PRIMIN REPORTEDLY WISHES TO ESTABLISH PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN ONE STROKE BY SENDING SPECIAL ENVOY. IF SPECIAL ENVOY REPORTS ROKG INTENTIONS TO JAPAN, GOJ PLANS TO DEVELOP FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TALKS TO HASTEN REALIZATION OF ROKG INTENTIONS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG REVISIT TO JAPAN AND MEASURES TOWARD FIRST SECRETARY KIM.

10. FONMIN OHIRA GATHERED MOFA LEADERS EVENING ELEVENTH, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER HOGEN, COUNCILLOR TOGO AND ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DURGEN TAKASHIMA TO ANALYZE PRESENT SITUATION AND DISCUSS COUNTER-POLCIES. THEY AGREED THAT IF KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT REMAINS AS IS, JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS WILL BE BLURRED INTERNATIONALLY, AND ADMITTED THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON JAPAN'S UN POLICY. THEREFORE, THEY DECIDED TO URGE ROKG TO SETTLE INCIDENT QUICKLY. MOFA LEADERS ALSO ANALYZED SITUATION INSIDE ROK BECAUSE OF SUSPICION OF FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON INVOLVEMENT ON BASIS OF INVESTIGATIONS BY JAPANESE SIDE. EARLIER KCIA DIRECTOR LEE HU RAK DECLARED QTE IF EVEN SINGLE MEMBER OF KCIA INVOLVED IN CASE, I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY UNQTE BUT THIS POSITION NO LONGER UNCLASSIFIED

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CONVINCING. TRUTH OF THIS POINT NOT CONFIRMED IN MOFA ANALYSIS OF SITUATION, BUT ON BASIS OF ANALYSIS THAT SITUATION INSIDE ROK IS FLUID, MOFA LEADERS FIRMED UP ESTIMATE THAT TIMING IS NOW PRESSING JAPANESE SIDE, TOO. UNQTE (END YOMIURI LEAD STORY)
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